

Red Vow on Rest of POWs

Saigon

The North Vietnamese said yesterday that the remaining 146 American prisoners of war would be released by the March 28 deadline.

Details of the last release will be announced soon said Colonel Bui Tin, head of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Joint Military Commission.

"You can rest assured we will carry out this matter before the 28th of the month," he said.

He said it is "very likely" the issue would be discussed at today's meeting of the JMC prisoner subcommission.

The final group of American prisoners consists of 140 military men and six civilians.

American troop withdrawals from Vietnam have been halted until the Communists release the names of the prisoners and the date

and place of their release.

There are 6308 American servicemen left in Vietnam, compared to 23,500 at the time of the cease-fire.

Lieutenant Colonel Le Trung Hien, South Vietnamese Command spokesman, said the South Vietnamese-Communist prisoner exchange program would be completed by Sunday, three days ahead of schedule.

The program, also broken down into four stages like the American prisoner release, is almost three-quarters finished. By tomorrow, Hien said, the South Vietnamese will have released 19,790 Communist soldiers while receiving 3270 of their own troops.

That will leave 6644 Communists and 2215 South Vietnamese to be exchanged between tomorrow and Sunday.

Colonel Hien said yesterday that the Communists

have committed 7571 violations since the cease-fire went into effect on January 28. During the period, he said, 14,030 Communists have been killed and 209 captured. South Vietnamese losses were listed as 2772 killed, 13,351 wounded and 719 missing.

Hien said there have been an additional 333 civilians killed, 998 wounded and 810 abducted by the Communists.

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